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/Comment: This report presents information, from March 1953 Soviet newspapers, on agriculture in the USSR as a whole and in 13 union republics. Progress and statistical data are given on the following: crops, mechanization, fertilization, land improvement, and labor and organization.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources./

USSR

The 1953 plan for sowing perennial and annual grasses, and ensilage and other fodder crops is being increased considerably /over 1952 ?/.(1)

Estonian SSR

Large areas of newly utilized lands have been prepared for extended sowing of fodder crops in all sovkhozes of the republic. The area devoted to potatoes, root crops and fodder cabbage will be expanded by 10-20 percent.(2)

In 1953, four MTS and one mechanized land improvement station will be created in the republic. The number of tractors serving kolkhozes will be increased by 25 percent.(3)

The Estonian Agricultural Academy recently graduated 60 agronomists and zootechnicians. A total of more than 150 agricultural specialists will be graduated in 1953.(4)

Latvian SSR

There are about 2 million hectares of swampy land in the republic. Since 1949, 157,000 hectares have been drained. During the Fifth Five-Year Plan, 400,000-450,000 hectares are to be drained; by the end of 1953, drainage work is to have been performed on 105,000 hectares. Thus far, seven mechanized land improvement stations have been created in the republic; there are improvement divisions in all rayons and oblasts.(5)

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Belorussian SSR

The fields in southwestern Belorussia are free of snow, and field work had been started by 24 March in sovkhozes of Grodnenskaya, Brestskaya, and Pinskaya oblasts.(2)

Taking advantage of sunny days and the absence of snow, grain growers in the southern regions of the republic have begun supplemental fertilization of winter crops. With the help of the Civil Air Fleet, supplemental fertilization had been applied, by 27 March, to the first 5,000 hectares of winter crops in Brestskaya, Polesskaya, and Pinskaya oblasts.(6)

Ukrainian SSR

Spring field work has started in sovkhozes of Khersonskaya and Nikolayevskaya oblasts, and in the Moldavian SSR. Supplemental fertilization of winter crops is in full swing. In Odesskaya Oblast, the seven airplanes in service had applied mineral fertilizers, by 21 March, to an area of 17,000 hectares. Supplemental fertilization has been applied to over 70 percent of the areas sown to winter wheat and perennial grass seed in Nikolayevskaya Oblast.(7)

Preparations are being completed in the republic for sowing crops which yield essential oils. The area devoted to them is to be double the prewar area. New varieties of high-yielding coriander and mint will be planted extensively.

In Izmail'skaya Oblast, the area devoted to the subtropical eugenol basil plant, which produces an essential oil, will be nearly tripled.(8)

Grain growers of Dnepropetrovskaya, Nikolayevskaya, Izmail'skaya, and Ternopol'skaya oblasts had applied supplemental fertilization to more than 560,000 hectares of winter crops by 21 March.(9)

Kolkhozes of Nikolayevskaya Oblast make extensive use of the Civil Air Fleet in applying supplemental fertilization to winter wheat and perennial grasses. The utilization of aircraft is permitting fertilization of the entire area sown to winter wheat, a goal not realized in past years.(10)

Large-scale supplemental fertilization of winter crops had been started by kolkhozes of Kiyevskaya Oblast by 27 March.(6)

Repair of tractors and agricultural implements had been completed by 19 February in MTS of Khersonskaya, Zaporozhskaya, Nikolayevskaya, and other oblasts of the republic.(11)

Moldavian SSR

Supplemental fertilization is being applied to wheat and rye in the southern regions of the republic. By 28 February, over 5,000 hectares of sown area had been fertilized with the use of aircraft, an expedient widely used in Moldavian agriculture. Use of aircraft for this purpose is increasing by 35 percent in 1953 [over 1952 ?].(12)

Georgian SSR

Kolkhozes of the republic are increasing the area devoted to vineyards by 2,500 hectares. By the end of the Fifth Five-Year Plan, 60,000 hectares are to be occupied by vineyards.(13)

Azerbaydzhan SSR

By 29 March, kolkhozes of the republic had sown almost 12,000 more hectares of spring grains than had been sown by the same date in 1952.(1)

RSFSR

Kolkhozes in Tambovskaya Oblast are scheduled to obtain the following average yields per hectare in 1953: grain crops, at least 15.8 quintals, including 18.3 quintals for winter wheat, and 12.5 quintals for spring wheat; sunflowers, 12.5 quintals; potatoes, 130 quintals; and vegetables, 150-200 quintals. Resolutions were made to grow the following average yields per hectare on irrigated land: 32 quintals of grain, 250 quintals of potatoes, and 3-4 quintals of perennial grass seed.(14)

Seed flax cultivated in kolkhozes of Stavropol'skiy Kray has recently become one of the most extensive and profitable crops in the kray. The kolkhoz imeni Lenin, in Vorontsovo-Aleksandrovskiy Rayon, harvested 6,095 quintals of flax seed from the 605 hectares sown to flax. This harvest is more than 10 quintals per hectare, while the plan called for 6 quintals per hectare.

The plan for delivery of flax seed for the kray as a whole was fulfilled 178.2 percent.(3)

Agriculture in Siberia has at its disposal an adequate variety of good and productive crops. Varieties of spring wheat include Mil'turum-553, Mil'turum-321, Albidum-3700, Iskra, Omskaya-2078, Tulunskaya-14, and Krasnoyarskaya-1103. Varieties of barley available are 13709, Viner, and Chervonets. Varieties of oats include Zalotoy Dozhd'. Sunflower varieties are Shortandinskiy, and Pioner Sibiri. Potato varieties planted are Sibiryak, Tulynskiy-8/157, Severyanin, and others.(13)

Early grain crops were sown quickly and the plan was fulfilled 112 percent in kolkhozes of Groznenskaya Oblast. More than 1,500 hectares of spring wheat were sown in excess of plan. Wide-scale sowing of sunflowers is in progress.(15)

Despite a late spring, sudden weather changes, cold winds, and brief periods of snow and rain, field work is being pushed at a rapid rate in the Kuban'.(8)

Changeable weather conditions marked the beginning of the 1953 spring season in Krymskaya Oblast, where warm sunny days alternate with frost, rain, and snow.(16)

Scores of aircraft in the agricultural aviation service are utilized in applying supplemental fertilizers to winter crops in the Kuban'. In 1953, an area of 500,000 hectares in the Kuban' will be fertilized with the use of aircraft.(15)

Kolkhozes and sovkhozes of Kaliningradskaya Oblast are applying supplemental fertilization on a large scale to winter crops. In a number of kolkhozes, tractor brigades have started plowing.(17)

In 1952, 4,200 hectares were under irrigation in kolkhozes and sovkhozes of Severo-Osetinskaya ASSR.(18)

The Kustanskaya Oblast Agricultural Administration has announced benefits of the MTS dispatcher service, whereby two-way radio communication between

MTS and tractor brigades has provided strict control over tractor work, improved the help given brigades, shortened the inoperative periods of the tractor park, and raised tractor productivity.

Introduction of the dispatcher service in Vladimirskaya MTS in 1952 resulted in the following: the plan for tractor work was exceeded by 12 percent; the average output per 15-horsepower tractor was increased by 50 hectares; and almost 50,000 rubles was saved.(14)

In 1952, MTS of Smolenskaya Oblast obtained over 300 combines, more than 1,000 mowing machines, about 1,500 seeders, 386 flax pullers, 188 feed steamers, 96 flax-scutching machines, and hundreds of potato diggers and cultivators.(19)

Kazakh SSR

The 90 varieties of grain grown in the republic include 30 varieties of spring wheat. Hard wheat is widely sown in spring, and in 1953 the area sown to hard wheat is being increased by 120,000 hectares over 1952. Hard wheat will represent 75 percent of all the wheat sown in Zapadno-Kazakhstanskaya Oblast.(13)

Kolkhozes of Dzhambulskaya Oblast were the first in the republic to begin sowing sugar beets. Beet growers of the oblast have pledged to grow 430 quintals per hectare on the entire area sown to sugar beets and to reach in 1953, on irrigated land, the yield goal established for the end of the Fifth Five-Year Plan.(20)

In 1953, the area under irrigation in the republic is being extended by almost 60,000 hectares over 1952.(21)

Dispatcher service, employing two-way radio communication, is utilized by 76 MTS of the republic. An additional 74 MTS and MZhS (mechanized animal husbandry stations) are due to receive such service in 1953. MTS and MZhS will receive 1,250 radio sending-receiving units for that purpose. The training of 50 radio-technician despatchers is under way in schools of the republic which teach mechanization of agriculture.(14)

Uzbek SSR

Over 10,000 lemon and orange seedlings grown in local nurseries will be transplanted in kolkhozes of the republic in 1953.

Citrus cultivation is being undertaken for the first time in a number of areas of Tashkentskaya, Namanganskaya, Fergansкaya, and Surkhan-Dar'inskaya oblasts.(9)

By 18 February, kolkhozes of Surkhan-Dar'inskaya Oblast had sown 3,500 hectares of cotton.(14)

Turkmen SSR

Apple and cherry trees are blooming in southern regions of the republic; winter grains are entering the tube stage; spring grains have sprouted.

Cotton growers in Chardzhouskaya Oblast and kolkhozes located in the Tedzhen River basin have begun sowing operations. By 23 March, about 3,000 hectares in the republic had been sown to cotton. The area devoted to kolkhoz gardens and vineyards is being expanded by 1,700 hectares.(17)

Tadzhik SSR

Kolkhozes in the northern part of the republic and in the Vakhsh and Gissar river valleys completed planting of subtropical crops 2 weeks earlier than in 1952. By 28 March, 50,000 pomegranate, fig, and other seedlings had been transplanted.(1)

Kirgiz SSR

Most kolkhozes of the republic had begun sowing grain and industrial crops by 26 March. In Talasskaya Oblast, considerably more land had been plowed and sown as of this date than as of the same date in 1952. In Frunzenskaya Oblast, kolkhozes are sowing grain crops, grasses, and industrial crops, and are carrying out supplemental fertilization of winter crops and alfalfa. Field work has begun in kolkhozes of Issyk-Kul'skaya and Tyan'-Shan'skaya oblasts.(22)

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